

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 8, 2007

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Governor Hoeven Proclaims *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed Wednesday, May 9, 2007, as *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota.

School Nurse Day honors professional nurses practicing in educational settings. Among their many responsibilities, school nurses promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student/family capacity for self-management, self-advocacy and learning.

The National Association of School Nurses recommends one nurse for every 750 students. Currently, about 80 nurses provide health services in North Dakota schools – one school nurse for every 3,572 students.

“Children learn better when they are healthy,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “*School Nurse Day* provides an opportunity to celebrate how much school nurses do to keep kids healthy and ready to learn.”

“School nurses play a vital role in advancing the well-being, academic success and lifetime achievement of students,” said Becky Bailey, director of Child and Adolescent Health Services for the North Dakota Department of Health. “A full appreciation of how much school nurses do to keep kids healthy is a key component of *School Nurse Day* celebrations. The Department of Health encourages schools and communities to join with their school nurses in celebrating this important day.”

For more information, contact Becky Bailey at 701.328.4526.

Please note: Proclamation follows.

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PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL NURSE DAY
May 9, 2007

WHEREAS, school nurses have a multi-faceted role within the school setting, one that supports the physical, mental, emotional and social health of students and their success in the learning process; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's school nurses are dedicated health-care professionals who provide direct health care to students and staff, leadership for the provision of health services, and screening and referral for health conditions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing for students' immediate health needs, school nurses promote healthy lifestyles and a healthy school environment; and

WHEREAS, school nurses serve in a leadership role for health policies and programs and as a liaison between families, schools, communities and health-care providers.

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to promote the good health of our children and recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health and safety of our students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 9, 2007, as **SCHOOL NURSE DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor

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